

## **An Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey**

**NGR 1110 5750  
Project No. 2855  
Site Code: MSA06**



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**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the proposed Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey. The work was undertaken between 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 on behalf of Gifford. Thirty two 50m by 2.5m trenches were excavated.*

*The evaluation revealed limited archaeological evidence. Of the thirty two trenches excavated, the following twenty were archaeologically negative: trenches 3, 5 - 7, 12 -19, 22 - 23, 25 - 29 and 32. Trench 1 only contained a modern pit associated with refuse dumping. Trench 2 contained an ephemeral archaeological feature, or deposit, containing prehistoric pottery and Trench 4 contained two gullies, one of which produced struck flint. Features were also identified in Trench 8 – 11, although the majority are undated with no datable finds recovered from them. Trench 21 and 24 both contained evidence for post-medieval or modern boundary ditches. Trenches 30 and 31 both uncovered gully terminals of shallow depth and indeterminate date. Trenches 15, 16, 19 and 20 all contained evidence of machine disturbance from the construction of an artificial hill situated at the far southeast side of the site and associated with the construction of the M25 motorway.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Gifford on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey, hereafter described as 'the site' (Figure 1). The site was situated at NGR TQ 111 575.
- 1.2** The site lies to the north and south of the M25 and to the south of Downside Village. It is bounded to the east by a train line and to the west by the Cobham to Effingham Junction road.
- 1.3** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the evaluation was prepared by ASE and approved by the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer.
- 1.4** The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Collie, Jim Stevenson, Dave Atkins, Dave Yates, Louise Munns and Michelle Stratton from 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The underlying geology on the site is recorded as London Clay overlain with alluvium to the west (British Geological Sheet 285/286). Previous investigations on the site identified over 5m of redeposited brickearth on the eastern part (Gifford 2007).
- 2.2** An Environmental Statement was produced for the site in 1995 and subsequently updated in a Desk Based Assessment in November 2006 which identified the following evidence from the surrounding area (Gifford 2006):
- **Neolithic**-flint tools were found 0.5-1.0 km away from the site
  - **Bronze Age**-pottery and a burnt flint scatter were found 0.9km from the site
  - **Medieval**-a moated site is situated 0.7km northeast of the site
  - **Post-medieval**-the remains of a 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century iron mill buildings were noted over 1km to the north the site
  - **Historic Buildings**-two Grade II Listed Buildings are known in the village of Downside and 7 further entries were recorded within the search area surrounding the site.
  - Downside Village was designated as a **Conservation Area** in 1999.

- *No SAM's, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or battlefield sites were noted in the search area.*
- *Areas of high archaeological potential were noted at Downside Farm and Muggeridge Wood, c. 1km to the east of the site.*

**2.4** A geophysical survey was carried out in October 2006 by Stratscan Ltd (Stratascan 2006). The survey identified that the southern side of the site contained ferrous disturbance left over from the motorway construction. The northern extent of the site had less ferrous disturbance and three linear, possible archaeological, anomalies were identified.

**2.5** An archaeological watching brief, carried out by Archaeology South-East during geotechnical investigations in January 2007, encountered no evidence of archaeological features or artefacts (Margetts 2007).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

**3.1** A total of 32 trial trenches were excavated (Figure 2). These trenches were located with a Global Positioning System [DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS). The majority of these trenches measured 2.5m by 50m (see Figure 2).

**3.2** Some modification to the previously agreed trench positions was necessary due to on site obstructions. Trenches 7 and 8 were moved to avoid a fence line. Trenches 15 and 18 straddled a fence line and were broken to avoid disturbing it. Similarly, Trench 24 was also broken and was also extended to the east. Trench 31 was realigned northeast-southwest to run parallel to the existing main access road, rather than cutting across it. This trench was also extended to 60m in length. Trench 32 was moved, also to avoid the access road and was dug to a length of 20m; the extra metres of trenching were added to Trenches 31 and 24. All these changes were made after discussion with Gifford and with the agreement of the SCC Archaeological Officer.

**3.3** The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 360-degree mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

**3.4** The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in

an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.

- 3.5** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive [including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditching, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.7** Environmental samples were taken where appropriate. Material obtained from environmental samples can provide information on the palaeo-vegetation and climate of an area as well as the economy and diet of a population. Samples were obtained from several suitable contexts and a preliminary analysis of these has been undertaken see below.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

The stratigraphic sequence typically comprised of a mid-dark brown silty or sandy clay topsoil overlying a mid grey brown silty or sandy clay subsoil. In some trenches, there was no evidence of subsoil, the topsoil directly overlying the natural substrate. This natural substrate varied from heavy London Clay to a sandy clay.

### **4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Max. Depth</b>
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
1/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
1/004	Layer	Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.80m
1/005	Cut	Pit	5m	2m	0.50m
1/006	Fill	Pit	5m	2m	0.40m
1/007	Fill	Pit	5m	2m	0.10m

## Summary

Natural geology, an orange grey clay [1/003], was encountered at a maximum height of 33.82m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 32.37m OD in the east.

A large modern feature [1/005] was recorded at the western end of this trench and was classed as a shallow pit. It contained a mixed brown silty clay [1/006] containing pieces of wood and vehicle tyre and also a black clay silt [1/007] containing occasional pieces of burnt clay. The finds from this feature, all of which were discarded on site, indicate dumping and possible burning of farm refuse.

## 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Fill	Natural depression?	1.44m	Tr.	0.12m
2/002	Cut	Natural depression?	1.44m	Tr.	0.12m
2/003	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
2/004	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
2/005	Layer	Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m
2/006	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

## Summary

Natural geology, a light orange yellow compact sandy clay, was encountered at 33.23m OD at the northern end of the trench, rising to 33.82 m OD in the south.

A small piece of green and black transfer printed ware was found within the topsoil [2/003], dating from the 18-19<sup>th</sup> century. One very shallow possible archaeological feature [2/002] was discovered within this trench. This was filled with a compact bluish grey sandy clay [2/001], which contained four sherds of prehistoric pottery. The rather ephemeral nature of this feature indicates it may be nothing more than a depression in the natural geology filled with silt. This suggests the natural collection of finds made through weathering processes and silting rather than deliberate refuse-dumping activities.

### 4.3 Trench 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
3/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

#### Summary

Natural geology [3/003], consisting of a compact yellow orange clay, was encountered at 34.52m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 32.70m OD in the east.

Cream glazed earthenware pottery fragments were discovered on the topsoil [3/001] from this trench, dating from the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably dumped as rubbish. No other archaeological features were observed.

### 4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
4/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
4/004	Cut	Gully terminus	2.4m	1m	0.10m
4/005	Fill	Gully terminus	2.4m	1m	0.10m
4/006	Cut	Gully	1m	0.44m	0.07m
4/007	Fill	Gully	1m	0.44m	0.07m

#### Summary

Natural geology [4/003], consisting of a compact yellow orange clay, was encountered at 33.48m OD at the northern end of the trench, rising to 33.92m OD in the south.

The topsoil [4/001] of this trench yielded green and black transfer printed pot fragments, dating from the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and also salt glazed stoneware bottle fragments, probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.. Two gullies were discovered in the trench. The first, a terminus [4/004], contained light blue grey sandy clay [4/005] complete with small charcoal flecks. The second, [4/007], ran diagonally across the trench from the north east to the south west. This contained a blue grey sandy clay fill [4/007] and contained a small assemblage of flint

cores and flakes, all undiagnostic in terms of date.

#### 4.5 Trench 5

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m
5/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology consisting of an orange sandy clay [5/003] was encountered at a maximum height of 34.79m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 33.53m OD to the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.6 Trench 6

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
6/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of an orange sandy clay [6/003], was encountered at a maximum height of 31.36m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 31.19m OD to the north.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.7 Trench 7

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
7/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid orange yellow clay [7/003], was

encountered at 32.69m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 31.95m OD to the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.8 Trench 8 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m
8/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
8/004	Cut	Pit	1.05m	1m	0.10m
8/005	Fill	Pit	1.05m	1m	0.10m
8/006	Cut	Pit	1m	0.65m	0.07m
8/007	Fill	Pit	1m	0.65m	0.07m

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid orange yellow clay [8/003], was encountered at 32.46m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 32.11m OD to the north.

Two features were uncovered in this trench. The first, [8/004], was a large pit with a flat base and concave moderate sloping sides. It contained fill [8/005] which consisted of dark grey silty clay with abundant charcoal flecks (90%) and occasional small fragments of manganese. No finds were present.

The second feature, [8/006], was a highly truncated pit base containing [8/007], compact grey silty clay fill. No finds were discovered within this feature and it must be noted that its contents were highly similar in consistency and colour to the underlying natural geology. It may be that this feature itself is nothing more than a natural depression in the underlying geology which has been filled with silt due to natural weathering processes.

#### 4.9 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
9/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
9/004	Cut	Pit	0.65m	0.40m	0.09m
9/005	Fill	Pit	0.65m	0.40m	0.09m
9/006	Cut	Linear feature	2.5m	0.92m	0.08m
9/007	Fill	Linear feature	2.5m	0.92m	0.08m

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a light orange grey sandy clay [9/003], was encountered at 33.04m OD in the western end of the trench, falling to 32.36m OD at the eastern end.

A sub-circular pit [9/004] containing a light grey silty clay fill [9/005] with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

The other feature present was a very shallow linear cut [9/006] that was evident running across the width of the trench. It had a single mottled orange grey silty clay fill [9/007] which produced no finds. It is unclear whether this ephemeral feature was of cultural or natural origin.

#### 4.10 Trench 10 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m
10/002	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
10/003	Cut	Posthole	0.33m	0.32m	0.05m
10/004	Fill	Posthole	0.33m	0.32m	0.05m
10/005	Cut	Feature	0.36m	0.36m	0.09m
10/006	Fill	Feature	0.36m	0.36m	0.09m

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of an orange grey clay [10/002], was encountered at 32.87m OD at the northern end of the trench falling to 32.82m OD to the south.

Two archaeological features were observed. The first was a post-hole [10/005] which contained a fill of bluish grey sandy clay [10/006] and also abundant amounts of burnt material including charcoal and fired clay suggesting that the post may have been burnt in situ. No finds were recovered.

The second archaeological feature found was the base of a small sub-circular pit [10/003] containing firm mottled black orange clay fill [10/004]. No finds were recovered.

#### 4.11 Trench 11 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m

11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
11/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
11/004	Cut	Ditch	2.5m	0.60m	0.28m
11/005	Fill	Ditch	2.5m	0.60m	0.28m
11/006	Cut	Stake line	3m	0.30m	0.20m
11/007	Fill	Stake line	3m	0.30m	0.20m

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of an orange clay [11/003], was encountered at 31.69m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 31.27m OD to the east.

A V-shaped ditch [11/004] with steep concave sides was located running north/south across the trench containing a pale orange grey sandy clay fill [11/005]. There were no artefacts recovered from this feature, despite 100% excavation of [11/005].

The second archaeological feature found within this trench was [11/006]. This ran diagonally across the trench from the south west to the north east and had an irregular undulating base. Examination of this feature revealed a line of stake holes cut into the base. The fill [11/007] was grey brown sandy clay and was consistent throughout the extent of [11/006]. Presumably, this feature represented a fence line although no dating evidence was forthcoming.

#### 4.12 Trench 12

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
12/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [12/003], was encountered at a maximum height of 31.52m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 31.27m OD to the north.

No archaeological features observed.

#### 4.13 Trench 13

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
13/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [13/003], was encountered at 31.92m OD at the eastern end of the trench falling to 31.85m OD in the west  
No archaeological features observed.

#### 4.14 Trench 14

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.21m
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
14/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [14/003], was encountered at 32.86m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling to 32.06m OD in the south.

No archaeological features observed.

#### 4.15 Trench 15

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m
15/002	Layer	Made-ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [15/003], was encountered at 32.25m OD at the western end of the trench falling to 31.06m OD in the east.

No archaeological features observed. The natural geology within this trench was scarred by machine tracks, presumably from the construction of the hill further to the east and then covered over with [15/002], a dark brown compact sandy silt, containing plastic, glass and brick. These finds were not retained.

#### 4.16 Trench 16

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m

16/002	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
16/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [16/003], was encountered at 31.34m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling to 30.56m OD in the south.

No archaeological features were encountered. This trench was stratigraphically similar to Trench 15; beneath the topsoil was a thick layer of dark brown sandy silt [16/002] which contained large pieces of concrete and brick, sherds of glass and pieces of plastic. This layer may have been deposited in the construction of the hill further to the east, which was constructed during the making of the M25 motorway.

## 4.17 Trench 17

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
17/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
17/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mid brown orange clay [17/003], was encountered at 31.82m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 31.34m OD in the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

## 4.18 Trench 18

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
18/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
18/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid brown orange clay [18/003], was encountered at 31.77m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 31.69m OD in the north.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.19 Trench 19

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
19/002	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
19/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid brown orange clay [19/003], was encountered at 32.02m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 31.70m OD in the east.

No archaeological features were observed. This trench was excavated at the base of the artificial hill constructed during the building of the M25 motorway. Made ground [19/002] was therefore encountered throughout this trench and consisted of fairly compact dark brown sandy silt. Other signs of modern construction processes were evident at the base of the trench where machine track marks could be seen scarring the natural geology.

#### 4.20 Trench 20

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
20/002	Layer	Subsoil	4m	Tr.	0.38m
20/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
20/004	Layer	Made ground	25m.	Tr.	1.34m

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid brown orange clay [20/003], was encountered at 31.54m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling to 31.50m OD in the south.

Similar to trenches 15, 16 and 19, this trench presented evidence for the construction of the artificial hill, through which the trench was cut and contained a very thick layer of made ground [20/004]. This consisted of mixed light grey and dark brown lenses of sandy clay, chalk and oil/petroleum. The trench was excavated down to the 1.20m depth. The made ground layer [20/004] could be clearly seen

at the base which stretched 25m from the southern end. A machine sondage was excavated at the southern-most end to investigate the depth of [20/004] which was seen to reach 1.50m below ground level.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.21 Trench 21 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
21/004	Deposit	Disturbed topsoil	1m	2.5m	0.32
21/005	Cut	Ditch	2.5m	1.80 m	0.56m
21/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.5m	1.80 m	0.42m
21/007	Fill	Ditch fill	2.5m	0.56 m	0.14m

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [21/003], was encountered at 30.16m OD at the both the eastern and western ends of the trench.

At the middle of the trench was a ditch [21/005] aligned north-south, along an existing boundary. It was filled with both [21/006], a mid grey compact silty clay containing a charred piece of wood and underlying this, [21/007], a mid grey brown sandy clay. There was a piece of fairly fresh wood in the base of the feature suggesting that the ditch was recently filled in. No other datable finds were recovered from this feature.

#### 4.22 Trench 22

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
22/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m
22/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [22/003], was encountered at 29.97m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling to

29.62m OD in the west.

The topsoil [22/001] yielded salt glazed stoneware bottle fragments from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and also 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century tin glazed earthenware. Several sherds of modern china were also present.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.23 Trench 23

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
23/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m
23/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

#### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [23/003], was encountered at 30.53m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 30.13m OD in the north.

Within the topsoil [23/001] of this trench were three roof tile fragments, two red brick fragments and a fragment of floor tile. All fragments were from the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries and can be considered as dumped refuse. Slate fragments were present also. Additionally, a fragment of ploughshare and a large lynchpin, probably also of agricultural use, were discovered and of modern origin.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.24 Trench 24 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
24/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
24/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
24/004	Cut	Ditch	2.5m	2.30m	0.68m
24/005	Fill	Ditch fill	2.5m	2.30m	0.20m
24/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.5m	2.30m	0.40m
24/007	Fill	Ditch fill	2.5m	2.30	0.15m

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### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a yellow clay [24/003], was encountered at 30.33m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling to 30.20m OD in the west.

At the western end of this trench was a fairly large ditch [24/004] which contained three fills. A firm mottled grey orange silty clay [24/005] overlying a firm dark grey silty clay [24/006]. This fill contained fragments of post-medieval CBM which can be placed in the 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> century period, suggesting that the ditch itself was a fairly recent feature. The primary fill of this ditch was mid grey yellow silty clay which contained no datable evidence.

#### 4.25 Trench 25

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
25/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [25/003], was encountered at 29.90m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling to 29.79m OD in the west.

From the topsoil [25/001], small fragments of glazed redware pottery were recovered which can be dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. Additionally, a ridge tile fragment was discovered along with fragments of slate tile.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.26 Trench 26

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
26/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [26/003], was encountered at 30.23m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 29.91m OD in the north.

Topsoil [26/001] yielded a sherd of modern green bottle glass and three leather-shoe heel fragments. No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.27 Trench 27

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m
27/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
27/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid yellow orange clay [27/003], was encountered at 30.34m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 29.70m OD in the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.28 Trench 28

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29m
28/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
28/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

##### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [28/003], was encountered at 29.88m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 29.83m OD in the north.

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.29 Trench 29

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
29/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mid orange clay [29/003], was encountered at 30.31m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling to 30.04m OD in the west.

The topsoil [29/001] yielded one fragment of 17th –18th century tin glazed earthenware. Several sherds of modern china were also present along with the porcelain head and leg of a Victorian doll. Environmental material included oyster shell fragments and ovine-sized fragments of rib, scapula, vertebra and longbone. Modern finds included sherds of modern green and brown bottle glass and one sherd of clear glass (form unknown).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.30 Trench 30 (Figure 5)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
30/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
30/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m
30/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
30/004	Cut	Gully	0.80m	0.22m	0.14m
30/005	Fill	Gully	0.80m	0.22m	0.14m

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [30/002], was encountered at 30.20m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling to 29.35m OD in the north.

A small gully [30/004] terminus was revealed towards the northern end of this trench and was filled by a fairly loose grey silty clay [30/005]. There were no datable finds from this feature but its size and shape suggest that it was constructed for drainage purposes.

#### 4.31 Trench 31 (Figure 5)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
--------	------	-------------	-------------	------------	-------

31/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
31/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
31/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
31/004	Cut	Gully	0.44m	0.16 m	0.16m
31/005	Fill	Gully	0.44m	0.16 m	0.16m

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [31/003], was encountered at 29.27m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling to 29.04m OD in the south.

A gully terminus [31/004] was revealed in the middle of this trench and was filled with a firm mid grey orange silty clay [31/005]. Its clearly defined steep sides and flat base suggest it was constructed for drainage purposes. There were no datable finds from this feature.

## 4.32 Trench 32

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
32/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m
32/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

### Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a bluish orange clay [32/002], was encountered at 29.45m OD at the western end of the trench, falling to 29.31m OD in the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

**5.1** A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the evaluation at Cobham. These are quantified in Appendix 1.

### **5.2 Prehistoric Pottery** by Louise Rayner

A collection of four sherds (50g) were recovered from [2/001]. Three of these are much abraded flint-tempered fragments of probable prehistoric date but in too poor condition to be assigned to a particular period. The largest sherd is a fragment of base from a handmade vessel in a fine sandy fabric, probably of Mid/Late Iron Age date.

These topsoil finds are indicative of prehistoric/Iron Age activity in the area but cannot be closely dated and are of limited potential due to the small assemblage size, condition of sherds and lack of association with contemporary features.

### **5.3 Later Pottery** by Trista Clifford

A total of 21 fragments of pottery were recovered. The entire pottery assemblage was recovered from the topsoil/subsoil, and the majority is of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The assemblage includes green and black transfer printed wares (context [2/001] and [4/001] respectively), cream glazed earthenwares from context [3/001] and glazed redware from [25/001]. Context [4/001] and [22/001] contained salt glazed stoneware bottle fragments, probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Contexts [22/001] and [29/001] each contained a fragment of 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> century tin glazed earthenware. Several sherds of modern blue china and white china were also present.

### **5.4 Ceramic Building Material**

Twenty-one fragments weighing 934g were recovered from the topsoil. Context [23/001] contained three roof tile fragments of a high fired, medium sandy fabric, two red brick fragments and a fragment from a high fired ?floor tile. [25/001] contained a ridge tile fragment of similar fabric to those of context [23/001]. Context [26/001] contained several medium fired red brick fragments and two possible tile fragments. Two small fragments probably from a tile of a high fired, sandy fabric were recovered from fill [24/006], which resided in ditch [24/004] the only stratified material in the assemblage. The CBM is 18<sup>th</sup> century to modern in date.

### **5.5 Shell**

Three fragments of edible oyster shell (*Ostrea Edulis*) were recovered from [29/001].

### **5.6 Glass**

Four fragments of glass were recovered. Contexts [4/001] and [26/001] each contained a fragment of green bottle glass. Context [29/001] contained a brown bottle glass fragment and a small clear glass fragment. All are modern in date.

### **5.7 Iron**

The iron assemblage consists of a fragment of ploughshare and a

large lynchpin, probably also of agricultural use, recovered from context [23/001]. In addition to this, two nails were recovered from context [29/001]. All are modern in date.

#### **5.8 Leather**

Three heel fragments from a modern shoe were recovered from [26/001].

#### **5.9 Stone**

Slate fragments were recovered from contexts [23/001] and [25/001]. Slate is not local to the area; therefore these are possibly Welsh in origin.

#### **5.10 Other ceramic**

The porcelain head and leg of a Victorian miniature doll were recovered from context [29/001].

#### **5.11 Flint by Lucy Allot**

A small assemblage of 23 worked flints, weighing 870g was collected from 10 contexts in trenches 9 (see Appendix 1). The assemblage consists of cores, flakes and some pebbles with single flake removals. This small assemblage of flints is not considered diagnostic although they should be retained to be compared with other flints from the area or further phases of work. In addition, ten pieces of fire-cracked flint (518g) were recovered, all bar the material in [22/001] was found alongside worked flint.

#### **5.12. Bone by Lucy Sibun**

Four small pieces of bone were recovered from [29/001]. These were identified as sheep-sized fragments of rib, scapula, vertebra and longbone. Nothing of significance was noted on these fragments but the vertebral fragment displays a chopped surface.

#### **5.13 Significance and potential**

The post-medieval assemblage is considered to hold little potential for further analysis but the ceramic and building material assemblage should be retained in case of further work on the site or in the vicinity.

### **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

**6.1 Environmental Samples** by Lucy Allott

**6.1.1** Three bulk samples were taken to establish evidence for environmental remains and to help establish the functions of the features from which they were taken.

**6.1.2** The samples were processed using bucket flotation. The flots and residues were retained on 250 micron and 500 micron meshes and air dried prior to sorting. Both the residues and flots were passed through graded sieves, sorted and quantified (Tables 1 and 2).

**6.1.3** Bone, shell, ceramic building materials, burnt clay, iron nodules and fire cracked flint present in the residues are comparable to those recorded in the finds report. The flots, which were dominated by modern roots, contained only small numbers of charcoal fragments and no other charred plant remains were noted.

**6.1.4** These samples have confirmed the presence of environmental remains, including charcoal, bone and shell, however, they are present in small quantities and their potential for providing further information regarding the occupation of this site is limited. It must also be noted that the modern roots suggest evidence for bioturbation and therefore potential modern contamination and disturbance.

Table 1: Flot quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50)

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>10/004</b>	<b>10/006</b>	<b>8/005</b>
<b>Volume</b>	10	50	60
<b>Total Weight</b>	4	18	14
<b>Uncharred %</b>	80	85	80
<b>Sediment %</b>	<2	<2	5
<b>Charcoal &gt;4mm frags</b>	*	*	*
<b>Charcoal &lt;4mm</b>	**	**	**

Table 2: Residue quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-100) and weights in grams

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>10/004</b>	<b>10/006</b>	<b>8/005</b>
<b>Charcoal &gt;4mm</b>		***/16	****/42

<b>Charcoal &lt;4mm</b>	*/<2	*** /8	****/26
<b>Bone</b>			**/6
<b>Shell</b>			*/<2
<b>CBM</b>			*/<2
<b>Burnt Clay</b>		**/2	
<b>Fe</b>	*/<2		*/10
<b>FCF</b>		**/38	

## 7.0 DISCUSSION

**7.1** This programme of trenching has demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains within the study area. The results of this investigation do permit some useful, if general, observations to be made regarding the nature and date of past activity on the site and the extent to which the fieldwork can be seen to have fulfilled the original aims of investigation as set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

**7.2** Archaeological evidence for activity, probably dating to the prehistoric period, is evident where the topography is at its highest. These remains were located at the south western side of the site, south of the M25 motorway (Trench 2 and Trench 4). Certainly, the gullies in Trench 4 suggest some form of boundary or drainage which may represent low-level prehistoric activity in the vicinity. There was no evidence that any of the gullies uncovered continued across more than one trench which suggests that they are fairly isolated or survive intermittently. Other archaeological remains encountered on site were scattered, isolated, features (Trench 30 and 31) or post-medieval/modern boundary or drainage ditches (Trenches 21 and 24). The ditch found in Trench 24 was partly visible as a linear depression on the ground surface and probably formed part of a fairly recent drainage system, almost certainly running into the ditch sampled in Trench 21, to the north of this trench.

**7.3** There were no features uncovered that corresponded to the east-west aligned linear features identified in the northern areas during the geophysical investigation, although the variable natural substrate may account for some of these. Terracotta field drains encountered across the site are likely to account for the series of linear, parallel anomalies also picked up in the geophysical works.

**7.4** In summary, the evaluation revealed sparse, fairly ephemeral remains of probable prehistoric date. Given the size of the area evaluated and the level of sampling (4% by area) this is a reliable assessment of the

archaeological potential. The London Clay was heavy and intractable in places and the lower lying areas of the site are liable to be subject to seasonal waterlogging. This may be the underlying reason for the relative lack of prehistoric and later activity, and it is perhaps significant that the few features that were uncovered were mostly associated with the higher and drier ground. These results are reflective of the archaeologically negative watching brief carried out during geotechnical test pitting across the site (Margetts 2007). The more recent ditches were almost certainly constructed to aid drainage and, in the case of the ditch uncovered in Trench 21, acted as field boundaries.

## **REFERENCES**

Gifford 2006, *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Motorway Services Area, Cobham, Surrey* Unpublished Report

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Margetts, A. 2007 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey* Unpublished ASE Report

Stratascan, 2006, *Geophysical Survey Report* Unpublished Report

Sygrave, J. 2007, *Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey: Method Statement for Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished ASE Report

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The assistance of Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council and Phil Emery and Jim Keyte of Gifford is gratefully acknowledged.

## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

### Project details

Project name	An archaeological excavation at the Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey. The work was undertaken between 11th and 22nd September 2006 on behalf of Berkeley Strategic. Thirty-two trenches were excavated, totalling some 1380 metres of trenching. The site itself was divided in half by the M25 Motorway. To the south of the motorway, the underlying natural, a yellow sandy clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 34.79m OD in the southwest (Trench 5), falling away to 31.50m OD to the southeast. To the north of the motorway, natural geology, again a compact yellow clay, was evident at 30.53m OD in the west falling away to 29.04m OD in the east. In general terms of the site in its entirety, the height of the natural geology falls gently from around 35m OD in the southwest to approximately 29m OD to the northeast. The evaluation itself yielded very little archaeological evidence and out of the 32 trenches that were excavated, those that were devoid of archaeological evidence included numbers 3, 5-7, 12-19, 22-23, 25-29 and 32. The remaining trenches yielded later iron age pottery in the southwestern areas of site. All other trenches yielded post-medieval/modern archaeology of little/no significance. In short, archaeology of any significance was presented in the southwestern side of site, where the natural geology was highest. Trenches here presented archaeology from the prehistoric era. In the northern end of site, post-medieval archaeology was discovered in the form of drainage ditches and gullies.</p>
Project dates	Start: 07-05-2007 End: 18-05-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MSA 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation

Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Significant Finds	CONTAINER Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	BOTTLE Modern
Significant Finds	PLATE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Road scheme (new and widening)
Development type	Motorway service station
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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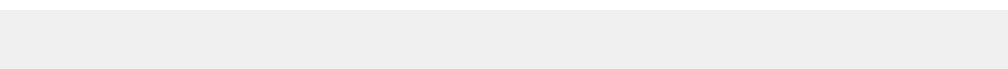
### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	SURREY GUILDFORD OCKHAM Motorway Service Area, Cobham, Surrey
Postcode	KT11 3

Study area            4000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates    TQ 1110 5750 51.30524888 -0.406014545458 51 18 18 N 000 24  
21 W Point

Height OD            Min: 29.00m Max: 35.00m



**Project creators**

Name of Organisation    Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator    Gifford Ltd

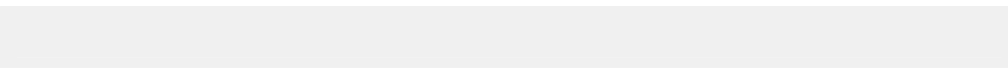
Project design originator    Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager    Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor    Tom Collie

Type of sponsor/funding body    consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body    Gifford Ltd



**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	MSA 06 Cobham Motorway services (2855)
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	MSA 06 Cobham Motorway services (2855)
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	MSA 06 Cobham Motorway services (2855)
Paper Media available	'Diary','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Cobham Motorway Services, Surrey

Author(s)/Editor(s) Collie, T

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or  
publication Ditchling, Hassocks

Description A4 grey literature report complete with plan/section drawings

Entered by Tom Collie (thjcollie@hotmail.com)

Entered on 4 June 2007

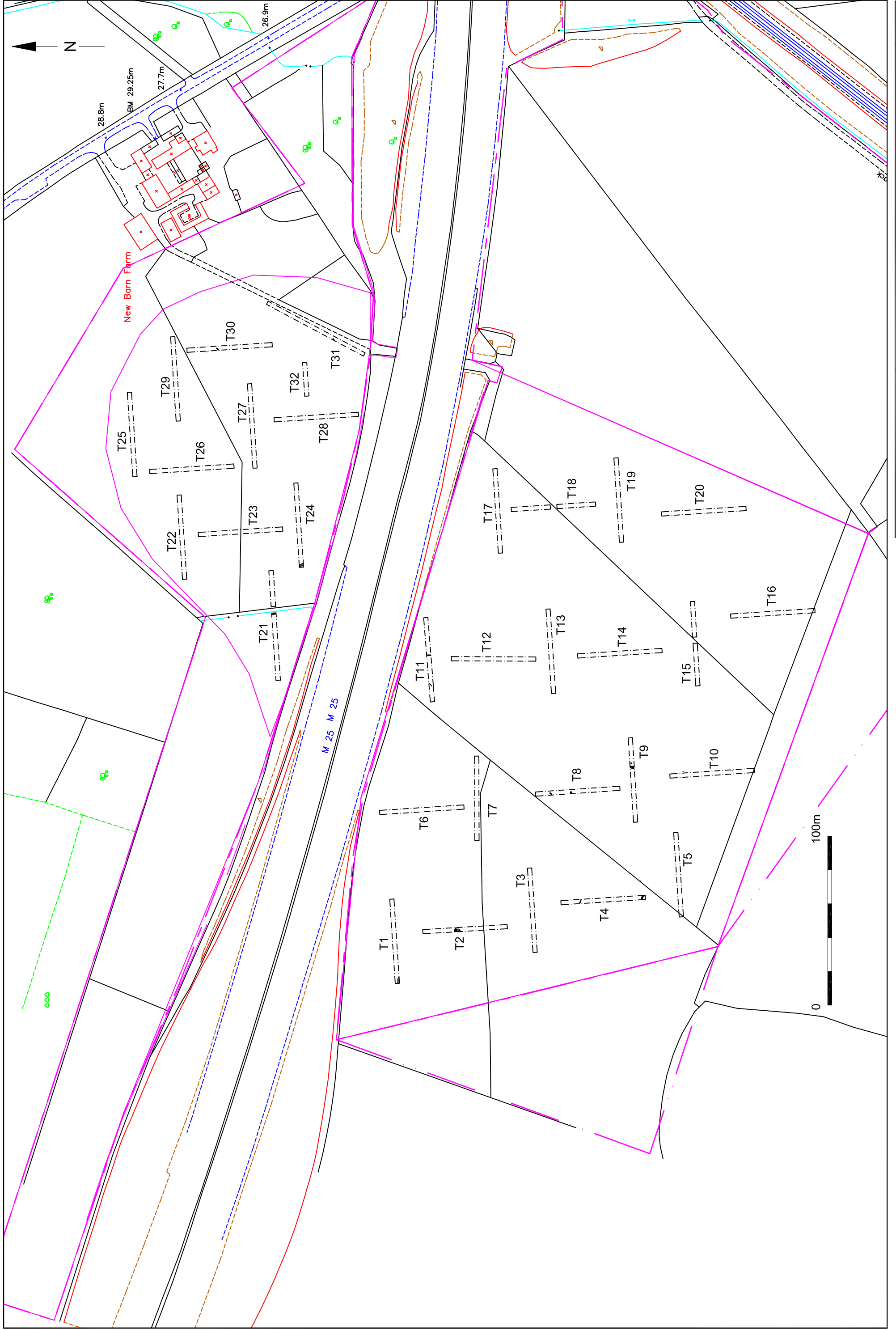
**Appendix 1: Finds Quantification of finds by count and weight [g]**

Context	Pot	Wt	CBM	Wt	Bone	Wt	Shell	Wt	Flint	Wt	FCF	Wt	Stone	Wt	Fe	Wt	Glass	Wt	Lea.	Wt	Other	Wt
1/003									2	54	1	80										
2/001	5	56							2	22	3	170										
3/001	2	40							2	106	2	154										
4/001	2	116							1	94			1	8			1	4				
4/007									9	88												
5/001									1	10												
7/002									3	290												
11/005									1	188												
22/001	6	38									2	58										
22/002									1	<2	2	56										
23/001			7	472									1	4	2	1568						
24/006			2	6																		
25/001	4	104	2	80									1	30								
26/001	1	<2	9	312													1	2	3	4		
26/002	1	<2	1	34																		
29/001	5	40	2	36	4	6	3	<2							2	10	2	4			2	10
31/001									1	18												

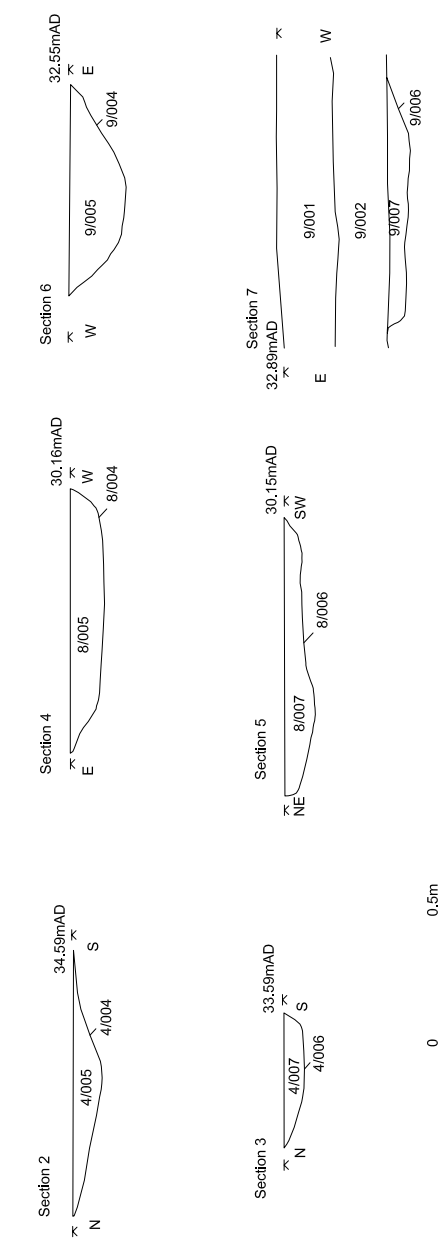
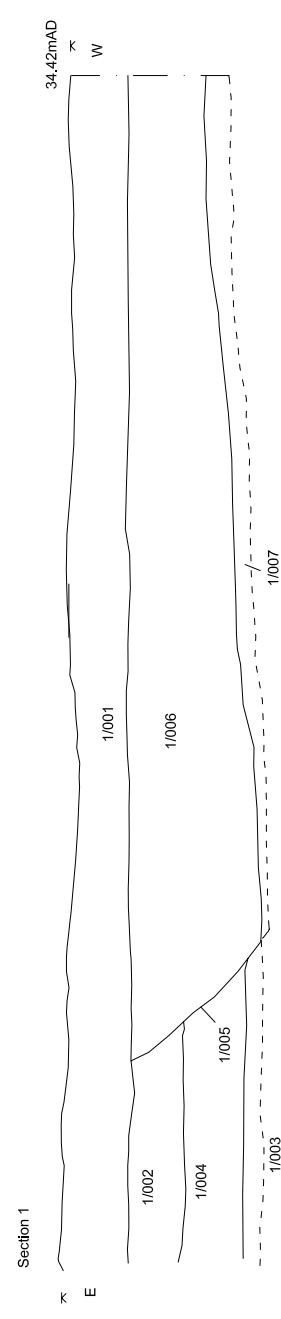
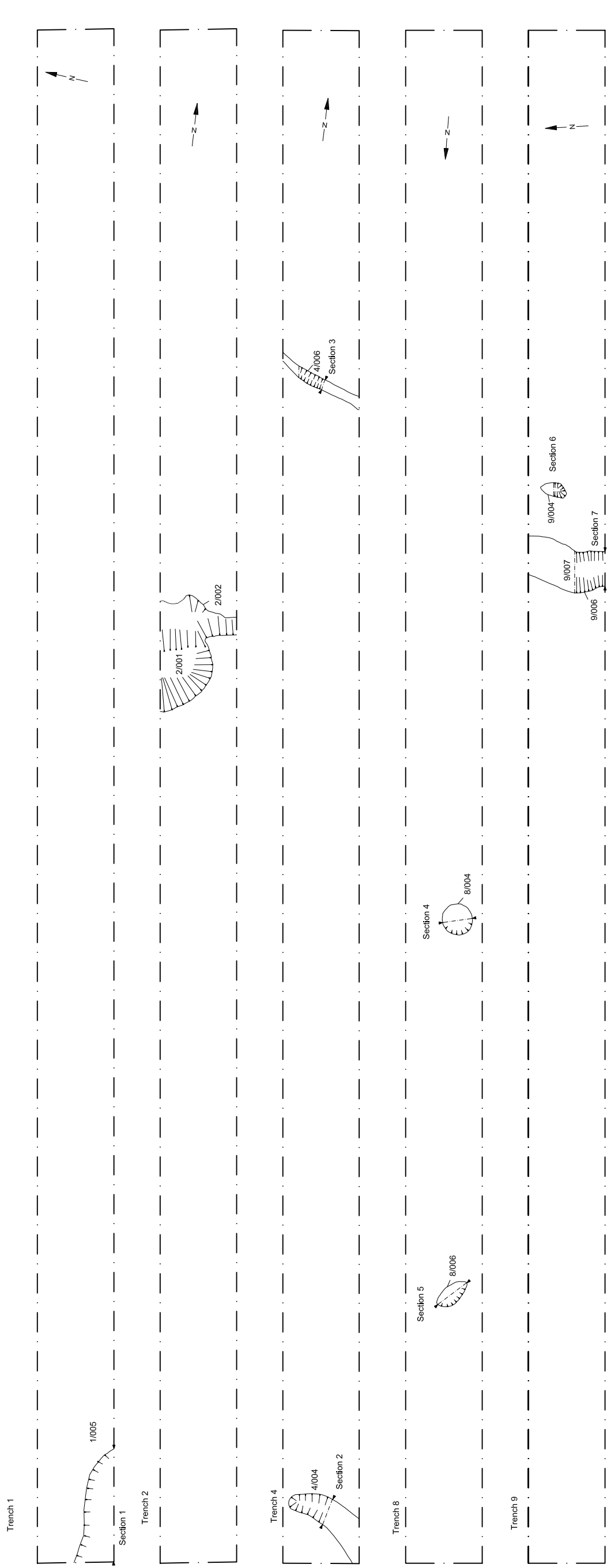


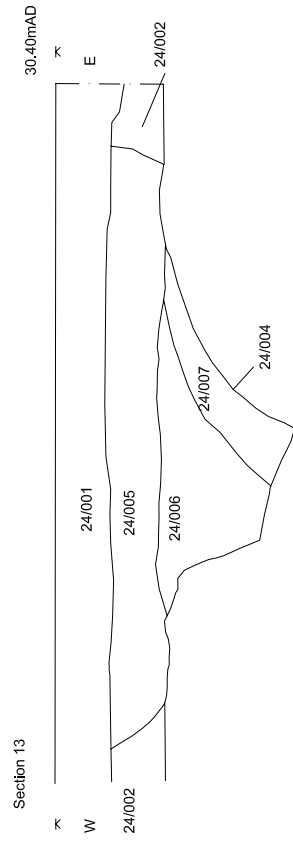
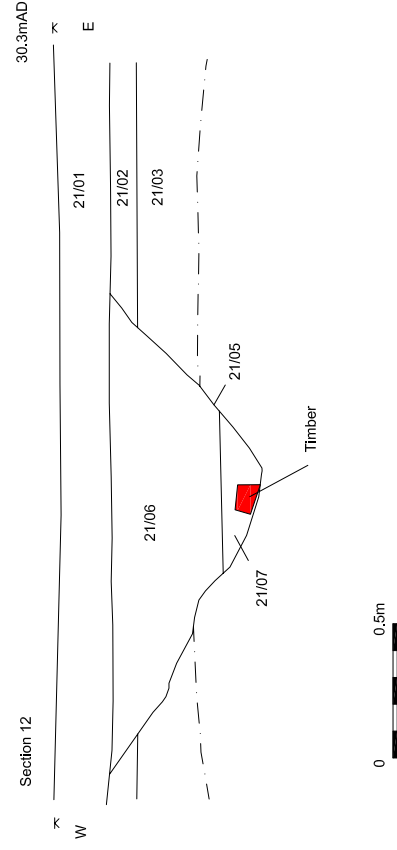
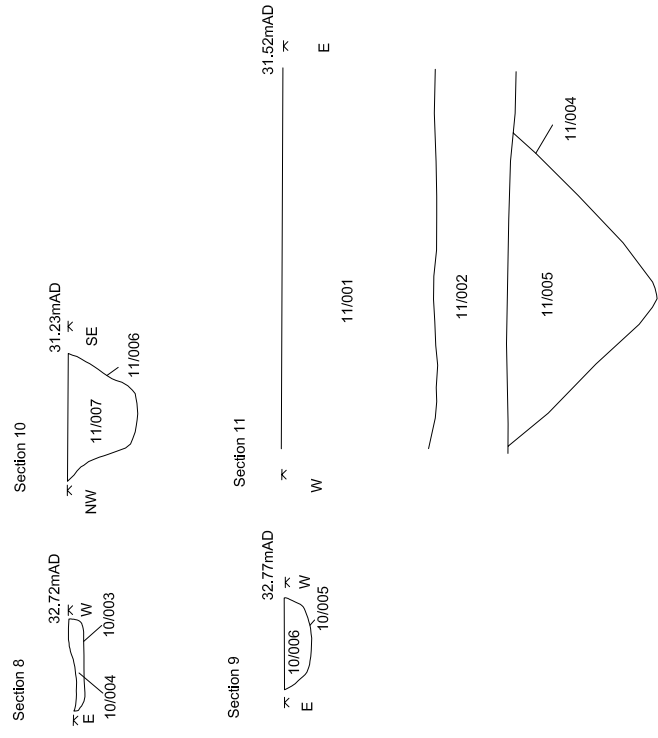
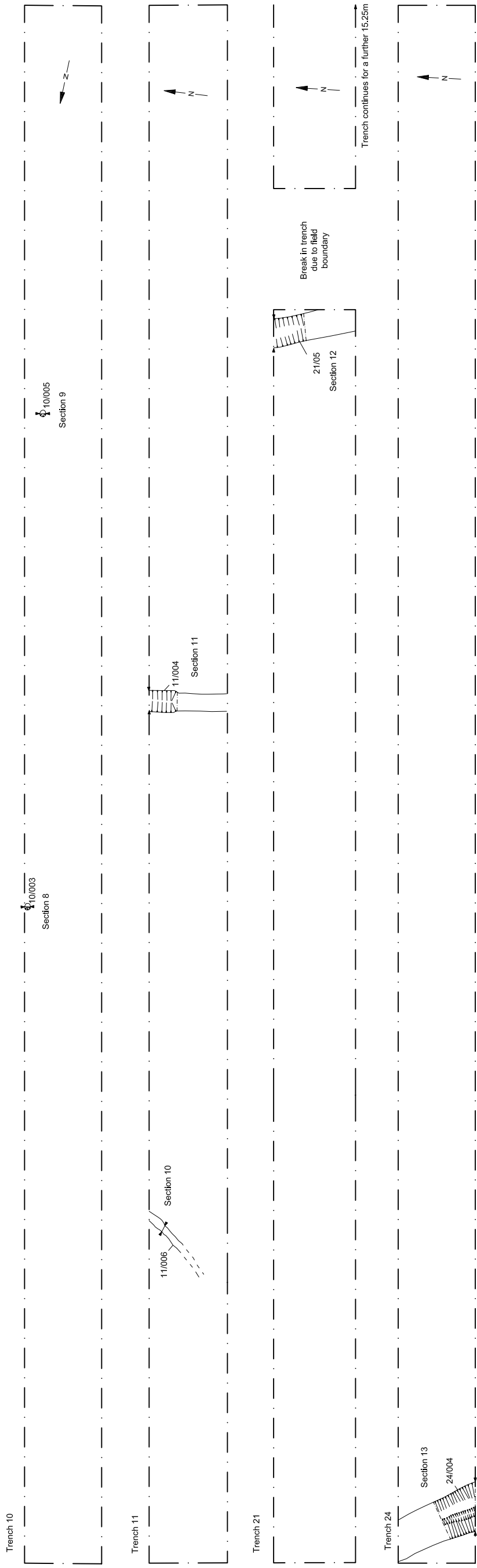
© Archaeology South-East			Cobham Motorway Services	Fig. 1
Ref: 2855	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East		Cobham Motorway Services		Fig. 2
Ref: 2855	May 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Trench Location Plan	

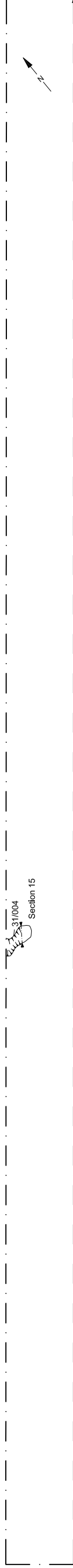




Trench 30



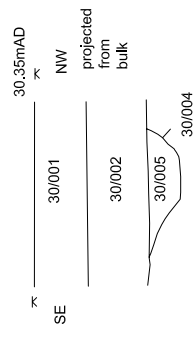
Trench 31



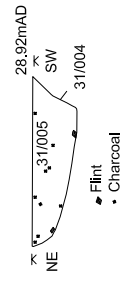
Trench continues for a further 14.49m



Section 14



Section 15



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